



Tasmanian Greens Party Policy 2014

Environment

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We have an ethical and practical responsibility to respect biodiversity and care for one another, other species and all habitats, both now and into the future. The maintenance of a healthy environment is crucial to the legacy we leave our children and all subsequent generations.

The Tasmanian Greens recognise that a healthy environment underpins a healthy society and a healthy economy. We also recognise that Tasmania's environment underpins our core brand value of 'pristine' and provides us with a strategic asset, which can be used to access global markets for our value-added produce. We contend that our core brand values provide a framework within which strategic decisions can be made regarding Tasmania's future economic direction.

The use of highly toxic and potentially carcinogenic agricultural and industrial chemicals around Tasmania comprises a threat to both the environment and human health. The Greens will properly regulate chemical use and progressively reduce Tasmania's reliance on toxic chemicals.

The Greens believe that other political parties have paid lip service to Tasmania's clean, green reputation. This threatens to undermine the state's potential. Our marketing image must be backed by substance, not rhetoric.

Measures

Departmental Structure

The Tasmanian Greens will work towards:

1. re-establishing a separate Department of the Environment to oversee environmental protection and management of Tasmania's water, soil and air quality.

Development

The Tasmanian Greens will work towards:

2. introducing stringent assessment guidelines for planning review bodies which all development applications must meet;
3. mandating that all development applications include an assessment of the proposal's direct and indirect impact on air, water and soil quality, and the integrity of affected eco-systems.

Environmental Protection

The Tasmanian Greens will work towards:

4. resourcing and equipping a stronger Environmental Protection Authority to ensure greater compliance with environmental protection legislation than is currently the case.

Native Species

The Tasmanian Greens will work towards:

5. promoting further research into the increasing incidence of disease in native species.

Feral and Invasive Species

The Tasmanian Greens will work towards:

6. maintaining the Invasive Species Unit to formulate and implement management plans which address the social, environmental and economic impact of feral and invasive species;
7. funding management plans for all invasive species, prioritising those with demonstrated adverse environmental and economic impacts.

Noise

The Tasmanian Greens will work towards:

8. developing a State Noise Policy recognising the health impacts of noise;
9. creating a Noise Unit within the Environment Department to respond to noise complaints and to conduct noise testing and mapping.

Cat Management

The Tasmanian Greens will work towards:

10. requiring the microchipping, registration and de-sexing of domestic cats as a first step in a comprehensive feral cat management plan;
11. developing a public education process to further protect and control the domestic cat population and to reduce the feral cat population.

Chemical Use

The Tasmanian Greens will work towards:

12. legislating to make the wilful, careless or irresponsible release of both licensed and unlicensed chemicals into the environment a serious crime;
13. banning all agricultural chemicals from the Triazine group;
14. banning 1080 except where there is no alternative to control dangerous, introduced species and then via a prescribed program administered by an appropriate authority;
15. reviewing the use and regulation of all other agricultural chemicals currently licensed for use in Tasmania;
16. introducing Chemical Trespass legislation, and a system whereby members of the public can access information regarding the location and quantity of each agricultural chemical licensed for use.

Threatened Species

The Tasmanian Greens will work towards:

17. legislating to remove the effective exemption given to the forest industry which allows a threatened species to be taken without permit;
18. amending current legislation to include a definition of, and ensure its application to, threatened native species communities;
19. ensuring the protection of all native species under threat from whatever source;
20. implementing the recommendations of the Auditor General's Report 78, Management of Threatened Species.

Land Clearance

The Tasmanian Greens will work towards:

21. ending broad scale land clearing in Tasmania.

Air Quality

The Tasmanian Greens will work towards:

22. removing exemptions for a bleached eucalypt kraft pulp mill from the Air Quality Policy established under the National Environment Protection Measures [NEPMs];
23. enforcing state laws on atmospheric pollutants to reduce levels of particulate matter and toxins because they impact on the health of Tasmanians.

Landscape Protection

The Tasmanian Greens will work towards:

24. legislating for, and incorporation of, the principle of heritage landscape, landscape protection and visual amenity into planning scheme assessment criteria.

Recreational Shooting

The Tasmanian Greens will work towards:

25. banning the recreational shooting season for Tasmania's native duck species.